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Viewing cable 07ROME69, IRAN SOLICITS ENI INVESTMENT IN AZADEGAN AND SOUTH

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07ROME69**.

| Reference ID | Created | Released | Classification | Origin |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 07ROME69 | 2007-01-12 06:50 | 2011-08-30 01:44 | SECRET//NOFORN | Embassy Rome |

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/05/16/114269/wikileaks-cables-show-oil-a-major.html>

VZCZCXRO6347
OO RUEHAG RUEHROV
DE RUEHRO #0069 0120650
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 120650Z JAN 07
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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6910
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S E C R E T ROME 000069

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/10/2027

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SUBJECT: IRAN SOLICITS ENI INVESTMENT IN AZADEGAN AND SOUTH
PARS OIL FIELDS

REF: A. 06 ROME 3159

[1](#)B. 06 STATE 179840
[1](#)C. 06 ROME 452

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald P. Spogli for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 5.

¶2. (S/NF) Summary. Eni CEO Paolo Scaroni told the Ambassador that the Iranian Energy Minister has offered Eni investment opportunities in Iran's South Pars and Azadegan oil fields. Scaroni said Eni is interested in additional investment in Iran so long as there are no multilateral sanctions against Iran in effect, Iran pays money owed Eni under existing contracts, and the investments are structured so that Eni's return is based on world oil and gas prices. The Ambassador made clear USG opposition to any investment that supports the current Iranian government. Scaroni will be in Washington February four and five and is willing to meet with Washington officials to discuss Eni's interest in Iran. End Summary.

¶3. (S/NF) Paolo Scaroni, CEO of Eni, the oil and gas parastatal 30 percent owned by the GOI, met with the Ambassador January 9 to discuss possible additional Eni investments in Iran. Scaroni said that during a meeting on the margins of an OPEC conference, the Iranian Energy Minister offered Eni investment opportunities in the South Pars and Azadegan oil fields. (Note: As reported ref C, Eni has invested 2.5 billion dollars in Iran since the 1950's, and has a 60 percent interest in phases four and five of the South Pars gas field. End note.) Scaroni said he told the Energy Minister Eni would be interested in additional investment in Iran if (i) Eni is paid the "hundreds of millions" owed it by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) under existing contracts, (ii) the investments are structured so that Eni's return would be based on world oil/gas prices, not a set amount per unit produced; and (iii) no international sanctions against Iran are in place.

¶4. (S/NF) Scaroni said he has briefed PM Prodi and FM D'Alema on Iran's offer, adding that Eni wants to be transparent and open with the USG as it considers the Iranian offer. He noted that Iran is the only viable alternative to Russia for meeting Europe's natural gas needs. The Ambassador told Scaroni that the USG opposes commercial activities with Iran that strengthen the regime's hand. Scaroni mentioned that he would be in Washington February 4-5 to participate in an Aspen Institute forum on energy and energy security and agreed with the Ambassador's suggestion that he should meet with USG officials to discuss Iran's proposal to Eni

¶5. (S/NF) Comment and action request. Scaroni's February trip to Washington provides us with an excellent opportunity to make clear to Eni the consequences of pursuing additional investments in Iran's energy sector. Action request: Post requests Department guidance on the availability of senior USG officials to meet with Scaroni on February four or five. Embassy POC for coordination with Scaroni's office is Energy Officer David Whiting XXXXXXXXXXXX End comment and action requested.
SPOGLI